

James J. Giszczak  
Direct Dial: 248-220-1354  
E-mail: jgiszczak@mcdonaldhopkins.com

McDonald Hopkins PLC  
39533 Woodward Avenue  
Suite 318  
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304  
P 1.248.646.5070  
F 1.248.646.5075

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
2019 AUG -5 A 4: 19

July 29, 2019

**VIA U.S. MAIL**

Office of the Maryland Attorney General  
Attn: Security Breach Notification  
200 St. Paul Place  
Baltimore, MD 21202

**Re: Southern Title, Inc. – Incident Notification**

Dear Sir or Madam:

McDonald Hopkins PLC represents Southern Title, Inc. (“Southern Title”). I am writing to provide notification of an incident at Southern Title that may affect the security of personal information of approximately three Maryland residents, one of whom is deceased. Southern Title’s investigation is ongoing, and this notification will be supplemented with any new or significant facts or findings subsequent to this submission, if any. By providing this notice, Southern Title does not waive any rights or defenses regarding the applicability of Maryland law or personal jurisdiction.

Southern Title recently learned that an unauthorized individual may have obtained access to two Southern Title employee email accounts. Southern Title immediately launched an investigation in consultation with law enforcement and outside cybersecurity professionals who regularly investigate and analyze these types of situations to analyze the extent of any compromise of the email accounts and the security of the emails and attachments contained within them. The investigation determined that there had been unauthorized access to the accounts between October 7, 2018 and January 24, 2019. Upon that determination, Southern Title immediately sought to ascertain what information was contained in the affected email accounts and devoted considerable time to that effort. As a result, on June 27, 2019, Southern Title discovered that the compromised email accounts contained the affected residents’ full names and Social Security numbers.

To date, Southern Title is not aware of any reports of identity fraud or improper use of any information as a direct result of this incident. Nevertheless, out of an abundance of caution, Southern Title wanted to inform you (and the affected residents) of the incident and to explain the steps that it is taking to help safeguard the affected residents against identity fraud. Southern Title will provide the affected residents with written notification of this incident commencing on or about July 30, 2019 in substantially the same form as the letter attached hereto. Southern Title will offer the affected residents a complimentary one-year membership with a credit monitoring

Office of the Maryland Attorney General  
Attn: Security Breach Notification  
July 29, 2019  
Page 2

service. Southern Title will advise the affected residents about the process for placing a fraud alert and/or security freeze on their credit files and obtaining free credit reports. The affected residents will also be provided with the contact information for the consumer reporting agencies, the Federal Trade Commission, and the Maryland Attorney General. The estate of the deceased resident will be provided with steps to take to protect itself.

At Southern Title, protecting the privacy of personal information is a top priority. Southern Title is committed to maintaining the privacy of personal information in its possession and has taken many precautions to safeguard it. Southern Title will continue to evaluate and modify its practices and internal controls to enhance the security and privacy of personal information.

Should you have any questions regarding this notification, please contact me at (248) 220-1354 or [jgiszczak@mcdonaldhopkins.com](mailto:jgiszczak@mcdonaldhopkins.com). Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



James J. Giszczak

Encl.



**IMPORTANT INFORMATION  
PLEASE REVIEW CAREFULLY**



Dear [REDACTED]:

I am writing with important information regarding a recent security incident. The privacy and security of the personal information we maintain is of the utmost importance to Southern Title, Inc. ("Southern Title"). We wanted to provide you with information about the incident, explain the services we are making available to you, and let you know that we continue to take significant measures to protect your information.

We recently learned that an unauthorized individual may have obtained access to two Southern Title employee email accounts. We immediately launched an investigation in consultation with law enforcement and outside cybersecurity professionals who regularly investigate and analyze these types of situations to analyze the extent of any compromise of the email accounts and the security of the emails and attachments contained within them. The investigation determined that there had been unauthorized access to the accounts between October 7, 2018 and January 24, 2019. Upon that determination, we immediately sought to ascertain what information was contained in the affected email accounts and devoted considerable time to that effort. As a result, on June 27, 2019, we discovered that the compromised email accounts contained your [REDACTED]

To date, we are not aware of any reports of identity fraud or improper use of your information as a direct result of this incident. Out of an abundance of caution, we wanted to make you aware of the incident, explain the services we are making available to help safeguard you against identity fraud, and suggest steps that you should take as well. To protect you from potential misuse of your information, we are offering you a one-year membership in myTrueIdentity provided by TransUnion Interactive, a subsidiary of TransUnion. For more information on identity theft prevention and myTrueIdentity, including instructions on how to activate your one-year membership, please see the additional information provided in this letter.

This letter also provides other precautionary measures you can take to protect your personal information, including placing a Fraud Alert and/or Security Freeze on your credit files, and/or obtaining a free credit report. Additionally, you should always remain vigilant in reviewing your financial account statements and credit reports for fraudulent or irregular activity on a regular basis.

Please accept our apologies that this incident occurred. We are committed to maintaining the privacy of personal information in our possession and have taken many precautions to safeguard it. We continually evaluate and modify our practices and internal controls to enhance the security and privacy of your personal information.

**If you have any further questions regarding this incident, please call our dedicated and confidential toll-free response line that we have set up to respond to questions at [REDACTED].** This response line is staffed with professionals familiar with this incident and knowledgeable on what you can do to protect against misuse of your information. The response line is available Monday through Friday, 9:00 am to 9:00 pm.

Sincerely,



President, Southern Title, Inc.

- OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION -

**1. Enrolling in Complimentary 12-Month Credit Monitoring.**

As a safeguard, we have arranged for you to enroll, at no cost to you, in an online credit monitoring service (myTrueIdentity) for one year provided by TransUnion Interactive, a subsidiary of TransUnion®, one of the three nationwide credit reporting companies.

To enroll in this service, go to the myTrueIdentity website at [REDACTED] and in the space referenced as “Enter Activation Code”, enter the following 12-letter Activation Code [REDACTED] and follow the three steps to receive your credit monitoring service online within minutes.

You can sign up for the online credit monitoring service anytime between now and [REDACTED]. Due to privacy laws, we cannot register you directly. Please note that credit monitoring service might not be available for individuals who do not have a credit file with TransUnion, or an address in the United States (or its territories) and a valid Social Security number. Enrolling in this service will not affect your credit score.

Once you are enrolled, you will be able to obtain one year of unlimited access to your TransUnion credit report and credit score. The daily credit monitoring service will notify you if there are any critical changes to your credit file at TransUnion, including fraud alerts, new inquiries, new accounts, new public records, late payments, change of address and more. The service also includes access to an identity restoration program that provides assistance in the event your identity is compromised to help you restore your identity and up to \$1,000,000 in identity theft insurance with no deductible. (Policy limitations and exclusions may apply.)

If you believe you may be a victim of identity theft, please call the toll-free TransUnion Fraud Response Services hotline at [REDACTED]. When prompted, enter the following 6-digit telephone pass code [REDACTED] to speak to a TransUnion representative about your identity theft issue.

**2. Placing a Fraud Alert on Your Credit File.**

Whether or not you choose to use the complimentary 12 month credit monitoring services, we recommend that you place an initial one-year “Fraud Alert” on your credit files, at no charge. A fraud alert tells creditors to contact you personally before they open any new accounts. To place a fraud alert, call any one of the three major credit bureaus at the numbers listed below. As soon as one credit bureau confirms your fraud alert, they will notify the others.

**Equifax**  
P.O. Box 105069  
Atlanta, GA 30348  
[www.equifax.com](http://www.equifax.com)  
1-800-525-6285

**Experian**  
P.O. Box 2002  
Allen, TX 75013  
[www.experian.com](http://www.experian.com)  
1-888-397-3742

**TransUnion LLC**  
P.O. Box 2000  
Chester, PA 19016  
[www.transunion.com](http://www.transunion.com)  
1-800-680-7289

**3. Consider Placing a Security Freeze on Your Credit File.**

If you are very concerned about becoming a victim of fraud or identity theft, you may request a “Security Freeze” be placed on your credit file, at no charge. A security freeze prohibits, with certain specific exceptions, the consumer reporting agencies from releasing your credit report or any information from it without your express authorization. You may place a security freeze on your credit report by contacting all three nationwide credit reporting companies at the numbers below and following the stated directions or by sending a request in writing, by mail, to all three credit reporting companies:

**Equifax Security Freeze**  
P.O. Box 105788  
Atlanta, GA 30348  
<https://www.freeze.equifax.com>  
1-800-349-9960

**Experian Security Freeze**  
P.O. Box 9554  
Allen, TX 75013  
<http://experian.com/freeze>  
1-888-397-3742

**TransUnion Security Freeze**  
P.O. Box 2000  
Chester, PA 19016  
<http://www.transunion.com/securityfreeze>  
1-888-909-8872

In order to place the security freeze, you'll need to supply your name, address, date of birth, Social Security number and other personal information. After receiving your freeze request, each credit reporting company will send you a confirmation letter containing a unique PIN (personal identification number) or password. Keep the PIN or password in a safe place. You will need it if you choose to lift the freeze.

If your personal information has been used to file a false tax return, to open an account or to attempt to open an account in your name or to commit fraud or other crimes against you, you may file a police report in the City in which you currently reside.

If you do place a security freeze *prior* to enrolling in the credit monitoring service as described above, you will need to remove the freeze in order to sign up for the credit monitoring service. After you sign up for the credit monitoring service, you may refreeze your credit file.

#### **4. Obtaining a Free Credit Report.**

Under federal law, you are entitled to one free credit report every 12 months from each of the above three major nationwide credit reporting companies. Call **1-877-322-8228** or request your free credit reports online at **[www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com)**. Once you receive your credit reports, review them for discrepancies. Identify any accounts you did not open or inquiries from creditors that you did not authorize. Verify all information is correct. If you have questions or notice incorrect information, contact the credit reporting company.

#### **5. Additional Helpful Resources.**

Even if you do not find any suspicious activity on your initial credit reports, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) recommends that you check your credit reports periodically. Checking your credit report periodically can help you spot problems and address them quickly.

If you find suspicious activity on your credit reports or have reason to believe your information is being misused, call your local law enforcement agency and file a police report. Be sure to obtain a copy of the police report, as many creditors will want the information it contains to absolve you of the fraudulent debts. You may also file a complaint with the FTC by contacting them on the web at [www.ftc.gov/idtheft](http://www.ftc.gov/idtheft), by phone at 1-877-IDTHEFT (1-877-438-4338), or by mail at Federal Trade Commission, Consumer Response Center, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20580. Your complaint will be added to the FTC's Identity Theft Data Clearinghouse, where it will be accessible to law enforcement for their investigations. In addition, you may obtain information from the FTC about fraud alerts and security freezes.

If your notice letter states that your bank account number and/or credit or debit card number was impacted, we recommend that you contact your financial institution(s) to inquire about steps to take to protect your account(s), including whether you should close your account(s) or obtain a new account number(s).

**Maryland Residents:** You may obtain information about avoiding identity theft from the Maryland Attorney General's Office: Office of the Attorney General of Maryland, Consumer Protection Division, 200 St. Paul Place, Baltimore, MD 21202, [www.oag.state.md.us/Consumer](http://www.oag.state.md.us/Consumer), Telephone: 1-888-743-0023.

**North Carolina Residents:** You may obtain information about preventing identity theft from the North Carolina Attorney General's Office: Office of the Attorney General of North Carolina, Department of Justice, 9001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-9001, [www.ncdoj.gov/](http://www.ncdoj.gov/), Telephone: 877-566-7226.

**Oregon Residents:** You may obtain information about preventing identity theft from the Oregon Attorney General's Office: Oregon Department of Justice, 1162 Court Street NE, Salem, OR 97301-4096, [www.doj.state.or.us/](http://www.doj.state.or.us/), Telephone: 877-877-9392.